



MAINE COAST  
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*Nourishing People with Vegetarian Seafood Since 1971*

Hetty Richardson  
Dept of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

November, 15 2004

Dear Ms Richardson,

It has come to my attention that the DEP is looking for local input on regulations for cruise ship discharge policies in Frenchman's Bay. I would like to request that the strictest discharge regulations be imposed for the following reasons.

My company, Maine Coast Sea Vegetables, Inc., harvests several different species of edible seaweeds from the Frenchman's Bay watershed. We sell them into health food markets nationwide as clean and healthy foods. Plus we are inspected yearly by an organic inspector who requires documentation that the plants are not contaminated from impure water. We spend thousands of \$ per year testing our plants for heavy metals, herbicides, pesticides, fuel oil and bacteriological contamination. Water quality is essential to our continued livelihood.

Please make sure that these ships can't bypass or "fudge" the strictest possible standards, something along the lines of Alaska's regulations. The future of all the plants and animals in the bay is at stake – and consequently the larger human community. We trust your willingness to think long term in this situation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shep Erhart  
President of Maine Coast Sea Vegetables, Inc.

